

O Magnum misterium - Beata virgo

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Cantus primus
[Soprano]

Contratenor
[Alto]

Tenor
[Tenor]

Bassus
[Bass]

O Ma - gnum mi - ste - ri - um, mi - ste - ri - um,

O Ma - gnum mi - ste - ri - um, O ma -

O Ma - gnum mi - ste - ri - um, mi - ste -

O Ma - gnum mi - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le,

O ma - gnum mi - ste - ri - um, et

- gnum mi - ste - ri - um, mi - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men -

- ri - um, mi - ste - ri - um, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le, sa -

10 et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, sa - cra - men - tum, et

ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, sa - cra - men - tum,

- tum, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men -

- cra - men - tum, sa - cra - men - tum, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa -

ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, ut

et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li -

- tum, et ad - mi - ra - bi - le sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni - ma - li - a,

- cra - men - tum, sa - cra - men - tum, ut a - ni -

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a - ni - ma - li - a, ut a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent Do - mi -

-a, ut a - ni - ma - li - a vi - de - rent Do - mi-num, ut a - ni -

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-ma - li - a vi - de - rent Do - mi-num, vi - de - rent Do - mi-num na -

-tum, na - tum, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o, in prae - se -

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-o, prae - se - pi - o, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o.

in prae - se - pi - o, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - - - pi - o.

-cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o, ja - cen - tem, ja - cen - tem in prae - se - pi - o.

-o, in prae - se - pi - o, in prae - se - - pi - o.

[Secunda pars]

50

Be - a - - ta vir - go, cu - jus

Be - a - - ta vir - go, cu - jus

Be - a - - ta vir - go, cu -

Be - a - - ta vir - go, cu -

vi - sce - ra [me - ru - e - runt] por - ta -

vi - - sce - ra [me - ru - e - runt] por - ta -

- jus vi - sce - ra [me - ru - e - - runt]

- jus vi - sce - ra [me - - ru - e - runt] por - ta -

re, por - ta - re, Do - mi - num Chri -

- re, por - ta - re, Do - mi-num Chri - stum, Do - mi -

por - ta - re, Do - mi - num Chri - stum, Chri -

- re, por - ta - re Do - mi - num Chri -

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- stum, Do - mi - num Chri - stum.

- num Chri - stum, Do - mi-num Chri - stum.

- stum, Do - mi-num Chri - stum.

- stum, Do - mi - num Chri - stum.

Fine

Versus

C1. A - ve Ma - ri - a, A -

Ct. A - ve Ma - ri - a, Ma - ri -

T. A - ve Ma -

70

- ve Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a

-a, Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple - na, gra - ti - a ple -

-ri - a, Ma - ri - a, gra - ti - a ple -

ple - na, Do - mi-nus te - cum, te - - - cum, Do -
 - na, Do - mi-nus te - cum, Do - mi-nus te - cum, Do -
 - na, Do - mi-nus te - cum, Do - mi-nus te - -

Secunda pars D.C. al fine

- mi - nus te - - - - - cum.
 - mi - nus te - - - - - cum.
 - - - cum, te - - - - - cum.

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that beasts should see the birth of our Lord, lying in a manger.
 O blessed virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear Christ our Lord.
 Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Source: William Byrd: *Gradualia, seu cantionum sacrarum... Liber secundus* (1st edition 1607, 2nd edition 1610), nos. 8-9.
 Liturgical function: 4th Responsory, Matins, Christmas Day.

Transposed up a minor third from published pitch.

I.8, 10, 15: *O admirabile*

IV.46 *b₁*, added to *ks*

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